

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 248

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16759

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT UR

SUBJECT: DISSIDENT JEWS' SIT-IN ENDS WITH SHORT PRISON TERMS

REF: MOSCOW 16728

1. THE 24 JEWISH DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE ARRESTED OCTOBER 25 (PARA 4 REFTTEL) ARE STILL IN PRISON. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ALL BUT ONE OF THEM HAS RECEIVED 15 DAYS. THE ONE EXCEPTION, JOSEPH ASSAS, IS BEING HELD, PROBABLY IN CONNECTION WITH MORE SERIOUS CHARGES. HE AND BORIS CHERNOBOL'SKIY ARE NOW THE ONLY TWO DEMONSTRATORS WHO APPARENTLY STILL FACE SERIOUS CHARGES.

2. COMMENT: IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES SHOULD HAVE REACTED THIS WAY. THEY WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY TO ALLOW CONTINUED DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE PARTY PLENUM AND SUPREME SOVIET SESSIONS. THE DISSIDENT JEWS RECEIVED FAR MORE WESTERN PUBLICITY THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED, IN LARGE PART, THANKS TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES' DECISION TO ALLOW THEM TO BE BEATEN UP. THEIR MEETING WITH INTERIOR MINISTER SHCHELOVKO WAS A "FIRST" FOR THE DISSIDENT JEWS, WHICH THEY FEEL MAY SET A PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE ENCOUNTERS. IMPRISONMENT FOR 15 DAYS IS A RELATIVELY

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MINOR PUNISHMENT BY THE STANDARDS OF SOVIET

"JURISPRUDENCE". IN GENERAL, OUR SOURCES SAY THAT
THEY ARE SATISFIED AND PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF
THEIR ACTIVITY IN THE LAST WEEK.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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